

# IOWA BIRD LIFE

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Summer 1999 Volume 69 Number 3



IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

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Volume 69, Number 3

## CONTENTS

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COMPARISON OF IOWA WINTER BIRD FEEDER SURVEY AND BREEDING BIRD SURVEY POPULATION TRENDS .....	85
<i>David Joseph Horn, Steve E. Fairbairn, and Richard J. Hollis</i>	
REPORT OF THE RECORDS COMMITTEE FOR 1998 .....	89
<i>Thomas H. Kent</i>	
FIELD REPORTS--SPRING 1999 .....	91
<i>Thomas H. Kent</i>	
FIRST STATE RECORD FOR EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE .....	100
<i>Jim Fuller</i>	
EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE SPECIMEN FOR IOWA .....	102
<i>Mark Proescholdt and Mike Stegmann</i>	
EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE IN OSCEOLA COUNTY .....	103
<i>Loren and Babs Padelford</i>	
WHITE-FACED IBIS AT HARRIER MARSH IN BOONE COUNTY .....	103
<i>Ed Thelen</i>	
WHOOPING CRANES IN BREMER COUNTY .....	104
<i>Dana Dimes</i>	
WHOOPING CRANE IN POLK COUNTY .....	105
<i>Jerry Keys</i>	
BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK AT TOMAHAWK MARSH .....	105
<i>Russell Reisz</i>	
RUFF AT RUNNELLS WILDLIFE AREA .....	106
<i>Stephen J. Dinsmore</i>	
COMMON NIGHTHAWK DRAWS A CROWD .....	107
<i>Thomas H. Kent</i>	
I.O.U. BUSINESS .....	107
<i>Board of Directors meeting, 28 March 1999</i>	
FIFTY YEARS AGO IN IOWA BIRD LIFE .....	108
CORRECTION .....	108

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FRONT COVER: Eurasian Collared-Dove in Osceola County, 1 September 1998. Photo by Ed Thelen.

INSIDE BACK COVER: Editorial Staff, Subscription/Membership Information, Instructions to Authors.  
Officers, Board of Directors, Standing Committees.

BACK COVER: Meeting Dates, Report Deadlines, Birdline, Materials Available.

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# COMPARISON OF IOWA WINTER BIRD FEEDER SURVEY AND BREEDING BIRD SURVEY POPULATION TRENDS

DAVID JOSEPH HORN, STEVE E. FAIRBAIRN, AND RICHARD J. HOLLIS

One of the most common functions of winter bird feeder surveys is to determine population trends (Burt and Burt 1979, 1980, Wells et al. 1996, Horn et al. 1998). For example, using data from a feeder survey in central New York, Burt and Burt (1979) examined the population trends of eight common species from 1959-1977. Horn et al. (1998) examined the population trends of Iowa birds that use feeders from 1985-1994 using data from the Iowa Winter Bird Feeder Survey.

One issue that has received comparatively little attention is how well patterns of population change derived from feeder surveys correspond to other surveys such as Christmas Bird Counts and Breeding Bird Surveys (although see Dunn 1986 and Wells et al. 1998). Here, we compare the population trends derived from the Iowa Winter Bird Feeder Survey with trends from the Breeding Bird Survey for birds that used feeders in Iowa from 1985-1994.

## METHODS

Population trend information from the Iowa Winter Bird Feeder Survey came from Horn et al. (1998). Horn et al. (1998) examined state-wide changes in both species' occurrence and abundance from 1985-1994, where "**occurrence** is defined as the percentage of participating houses where a given species was present, and **abundance** is the total number of individuals of a given species at all houses combined divided by the total number of houses that participated" (Horn et al. 1998). Breeding Bird Survey trends were determined using the Breeding Bird Survey Home Page (Version 96.4) (Sauer et al. 1997). We used the estimating equations method to determine Breeding Bird Survey population trends for Iowa birds from 1985-1994 (see Sauer et al. 1997 for details). The same 34 species investigated in Horn et al. (1998) were used in this study. The House Finch was not examined because it was not put on the Iowa Winter Bird Feeder Survey form until 1990. Because of differences in sample sizes between the two surveys, for this paper Winter Bird Feeder Survey trends were considered significant if  $P < 0.05$ , and Breeding Bird Survey trends were considered significant if  $P < 0.10$ .

## RESULTS

Of the 34 species analyzed using data from the Iowa Winter Bird Feeder Survey, seven species had significant positive relationships between occurrence and year on a state-wide scale for the period 1985-1994, and two species had negative relationships (Table 1) (Horn et al. 1998, p. 110). Eight species had significant positive relationships between abundance and year on a state-wide scale for the period 1985-1994, while two species had negative relationships (Table 1) (Horn et al. 1998, p. 110). Ten species examined in the Iowa Winter Bird Feeder Survey had significant Breeding Bird Survey trends in Iowa from 1985-1994 (Table 1) (Sauer et al. 1997). In all cases, the Breeding Bird Survey trend was negative.

**Table 1.** Species having significant population trends in Iowa from 1985-1994 as determined by the Iowa Winter Bird Feeder Survey (Horn et al. 1998) and Breeding Bird Survey (Sauer et al. 1997).<sup>1</sup> Two measures, occurrence and abundance, were used for determining population trends using data from the Iowa Winter Bird Feeder Survey. The Breeding Bird Survey trend estimate is the % annual change in the number of birds observed per route (Sauer et al. 1997).

Species	Iowa Winter Bird Feeder Survey		Breeding Bird Survey		
	Occurrence	Abundance estimate	Trend	P	N <sup>2</sup>
Rock Dove	.3	-	-4.2	0.064	32
Mourning Dove	+	+	NT <sup>4</sup>		
Red-headed Woodpecker	NT	NT	-4.1	0.003	33
Red-bellied Woodpecker	NT	+	NT		
Downy Woodpecker	+	+	-5.2	0.031	23
Northern Flicker	NT	+	-5.2	0.003	33
American Crow	+	+	NT		
Black-capped Chickadee	+	+	-4.5	0.081	27
Tufted Titmouse	+	+	NT		
European Starling	NT	NT	-3.9	0.023	33
Northern Cardinal	+	NT	NT		
White-throated Sparrow	+	+	no data <sup>5</sup>		
Red-winged Blackbird	NT	NT	-2.8	0.001	33
Common Grackle	-	NT	-3.0	0.011	33
American Goldfinch	NT	NT	-5.0	0.030	33
House Sparrow	NT	-	-3.6	0.006	33

1. Ring-necked Pheasant, Hairy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, American Tree Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Brown-headed Cowbird, Purple Finch, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, and Evening Grosbeak were also examined, but did not exhibit significant population trends.

2. N is the number of Breeding Bird Survey routes on which the trend was based.

3. Trends were denoted: + for positive and - for negative.

4. NT - No trend detected.

5. Breeding Bird Survey trend estimates were not determined for Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, American Tree Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Purple Finch, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, and Evening Grosbeak, because these species were not commonly found in Iowa during the summer.

Of the 23 species for which both Winter Bird Feeder Survey and Breeding Bird Survey trends were measured, trends between surveys were similar for 11 species (48%). No trend was detected in either survey for eight species (Ring-necked Pheasant, Hairy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, Song Sparrow, Brown-headed Cowbird), while for three species (Rock Dove, Common Grackle, House Sparrow) a negative trend was detected in both surveys. For five species (Mourning Dove, Red-bellied Woodpecker, American Crow, Tufted Titmouse, Northern Cardinal) a positive trend was detected in the Iowa Winter Bird Feeder Survey and no trend was detected in the Breeding Bird Survey. For

four species (Red-headed Woodpecker, European Starling, Red-winged Blackbird, American Goldfinch) a negative trend was detected in the Breeding Bird Survey and no trend was detected in the Iowa Winter Bird Feeder Survey. In three species (Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Black-capped Chickadee) a positive trend was detected in the Iowa Winter Bird Feeder Survey and a negative trend in the Breeding Bird Survey.

## DISCUSSION

Positive state-wide population trends derived from the Iowa Winter Bird Feeder Survey from 1985-1994 were not corroborated by data from the Breeding Bird Survey. None of the nine species that showed a positive trend in occurrence or abundance using Iowa Winter Bird Feeder Survey data had a positive trend using Breeding Bird Survey data. In fact, state-wide trends for the Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, and Black-capped Chickadee were positive in the Iowa Winter Bird Feeder Survey, but negative for the Breeding Bird Survey. Moreover, a negative population trend using Breeding Bird Survey data was found for the American Goldfinch which, using Iowa Winter Bird Feeder Survey data, exhibited positive increases in occurrence and/or abundance in the northwestern and west-central portions of the state (Horn et al. 1998).

Negative population trends identified in the Iowa Winter Bird Feeder Survey were corroborated by the Breeding Bird Survey for the Rock Dove, Common Grackle, and House Sparrow. Red-headed Woodpecker and European Starling were also found to have a negative trend in the Breeding Bird Survey. These results are partially supported by Horn et al. (1998) who found a decrease in abundance of Red-headed Woodpecker in the southwestern region of the state, and a decrease in occurrence or abundance of European Starling in the northwestern, northeastern, southwestern, and southeastern regions (although starlings showed positive trends in the north-central and east-central regions).

Dunn (1986) compared population trends derived from the Ontario Bird Feeder Survey with Christmas Bird Count data and found 7 of 25 species (28%) to have significant correlations. In addition, Dunn (1986) found that the number of positive correlations of species' population trends between the Ontario Bird Feeder Survey and Christmas Bird Count was greater than expected by chance. Wells et al. (1998) compared population trends derived from Project Feeder Watch data, a feeder survey spanning North America, and compared them with Breeding Bird Survey data. When comparing temporal trends, Wells et al. (1998) observed four of nine species to have significant correlations. Both Dunn (1986) and Wells et al. (1998) concluded that winter bird feeder surveys can be used to accurately assess regional population trends. We conclude that negative trends detected by the Iowa Winter Bird Feeder Survey are corroborated by the Breeding Bird Survey, and thus, may be indicative of state-wide changes in bird populations. However, positive trends observed in the Iowa Winter Bird Feeder Survey do not correspond with the Breeding Bird Survey data.

There may be several reasons why the Iowa Winter Bird Feeder Survey and Breeding Bird Survey trends do not completely correspond with each other. First, the two surveys are conducted in two very different time periods: summer and winter, and for some species there may be very little correlation between population trends in late January compared to mid-summer. For example, some species that have declining breeding populations in the state may have fluctuating winter populations depending on the severity of the winter. Second, the surveys may be sampling two different portions of the state's bird population. Breeding Bird Survey routes are randomly

placed throughout the state, and sample areas with large areas amounts of farmland and few trees. Participants in the Iowa Winter Bird Feeder Survey generally live in suburban areas containing many trees and shrubs, and presumably more bird feeders.

It has been proposed that the addition of seeds can influence population trends (Burt and Burt 1979). Burt and Burt (1979) suggested that the increase in availability of thistle seed may have been responsible for increasing trends in goldfinch populations in central New York. If access to supplemental food increased individual survivorship (Brittingham and Temple 1988), and the two surveys were measuring two different portions of the state's population, then one might expect trends from the Iowa Winter Bird Feeder Survey to go up, and no change in Breeding Bird Survey trends. Wilson (1994) found that species changed their habitat preferences when bird feeders were available. This might explain why species showed a positive trend in the Iowa Winter Bird Feeder Survey and a negative trend in the Breeding Bird Survey (i.e., species may be switching habitats).

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This paper would not have been possible without the hundreds of volunteers who annually participate in the Iowa Winter Bird Feeder Survey. We thank J. J. Dinsmore and M. V. Schiavone for reviewing the manuscript prior to publication. L. M. Hemesath provided considerable logistic support. Funding to analyze the data was provided by a grant to DJH and SEF by the Iowa Ornithologists' Union.

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# REPORT OF THE RECORDS COMMITTEE FOR 1998

THOMAS H. KENT

The Records Committee reviewed 37 records from 1998. Of these, 31 were accepted and 6 were not. Sprague's Pipit was added to the state list. Of the accepted records, 1 (Ringed Turtle-Dove) is not considered a wild species, and 1 was identified only to family (hummingbird). Two of the not-accepted records were identified correctly but were probably escapees (Lesser White-fronted Goose, *Amazilia Hummingbird*).

Committee members for 1998 with years in which their terms expire were: Ann M. Johnson (1999), W. Ross Silcock (2000), Chris Edwards (2001), James L. Fuller (2002), Matthew C. Kenne (2003), Robert I. Cecil (2004), and Thomas H. Kent (secretary, appointed by the committee). Jim Sinclair was nominated by the Committee and Appointed by the Board of Directors to fill a regular term beginning in 1999. The secretary resigned, and in 1999 the committee appointed Ann M. Johnson as secretary beginning in the year 2000 and nominated Thomas H. Kent to fill the expiring term of W. Ross Silcock in 2000. Kent's nomination to the committee has been approved by the IOU Board of Directors.

The four-digit number (year and sequence number) assigned to each record reviewed by the Records Committee is included for future reference. Records are classified as: A = Accepted (-S = specimen, -P = photograph, -R = recording, -D = documentation) and NA = Not Accepted. In order to be Accepted, a record must receive 7 votes on the initial review or 6 votes on a subsequent review. The subcategories A-S, A-P, and A-R indicate that physical evidence supports the identification, and records are subclassified based on a majority vote. References to *IBL* are the volume and page of the Field Reports in *Iowa Bird Life* where the record is cited. P- numbers refer to the IOU Photo File entry number. Published notes and previous citations may contain more details. An \* indicates a previously uncited documentation.

## 1998 RECORDS ACCEPTED

**Clark's Grebe:** 22 Nov at Lost Island L. in Palo Alto (98-21, \*Lee A. Schoenewe, *IBL* 69:31).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 2 Jan at Cedar L. in Linn Co. (98-01, *IBL* 68:56).

**Glossy Ibis:** 26 May at Thorpe P. in Winnebago Co. (98-12, P-0599, *IBL* 68:90, Dodici 1999).

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck:** 10 Apr to 19 May at Tomahawk M. in Sac Co. (98-13, P-0593, *IBL* 68:90, Reisz 1999).

**Virginia Rail:** 1 Jan at Brown's L. in Woodbury Co. (98-02, *IBL* 68:60).

**Whooping Crane:** 11 Nov southwest of Plainfield in Bremer Co. (98-24, *IBL* 69:34, Dinnes 1999) and 12 Nov southwest of Jester P. in Polk Co. (98-23, *IBL* 69:34, Keys 1999).

**Black-necked Stilt:** 28 Apr at Mark Twain N.W.R. in Louisa Co. (98-14, *IBL* 68:92).

**Whimbrel:** 20 May at Spirit L. in Dickinson Co. (98-32, P-0601, *IBL* 68:92).

**Dunlin:** 28 Feb at Snyder's Bend in Woodbury Co. (98-09, \*Bill F. Huser, *IBL* 68:60).

**Ruff:** 23 Oct at Runnell's W.A. in Marion Co. (98-25, *IBL* 69:35, Dinsmore 1999).

**Red Phalarope:** 7 Oct at Coralville Res. in Johnson Co. (98-26, P-0602, *IBL* 69:35).

**Black-headed Gull:** 17 May at Kettleston Hogsback A. in Dickinson Co. (98-15, *IBL* 68:93) and 11, 15 Oct and 8 Nov at Spirit L. in Dickinson Co. (98-27, P-0617, *IBL* 69:35).

**Mew Gull:** 20 Dec at Saylorville Res. in Polk Co. (98-36, *IBL* 69:68) and 21 Dec at Keokuk in Lee Co. (98-37, *IBL* 69:68).

**California Gull:** 5 Oct to 4 Nov at Red Rock Res. (98-28, *IBL* 69:35).

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** 26 Apr at Rathbun Res. in Appanoose Co. (98-16, *IBL* 68:93).

**Ringed Turtle-Dove:** Jun at Elkhart in Polk Co. (98-34, P-0610, \*Adeleine Studer). A photograph was used to determine that the bird was not a Eurasian Collared-Dove.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove:** 26 Feb at Grinnell in Poweshiek Co., a continuation of birds present since 30 Aug 1997 (98-03, *IBL* 68:61, Fuller 1999, Proescholdt and Stegmann 1999) and 20, 29 Aug and 1 Sep at Willow Creek P. in Osceola Co. (98-30, P-0605, *IBL* 69:35, Padelford and Padelford 1999).

- Burrowing Owl:** 30 Aug east of Larchwood in Lyon Co. (98-35, P-0611, *IBL* 69:36, Harr 1999).
- Hummingbird species:** A possible Anna's Hummingbird was found on 31 Mar in a greenhouse in Le Claire in Scott Co. (98-10, *IBL* 68:94).
- Black-billed Magpie:** 24 Jan in northwestern Plymouth Co. (98-17, *IBL* 68:61) and 30 Apr south of Westfield in Plymouth Co. (98-18, *IBL* 68:94).
- Common Raven:** 5 Feb at L. Manawa in Pottawattamie Co. (98-05, *IBL* 68:61).
- Marsh Wren:** 1 Jan at Brown's L. in Woodbury Co. (98-06, *IBL* 68:62).
- Sprague's Pipit:** 22 Feb at Waterman Creek A. in O'Brien Co. (98-07, *IBL* 68:62) and 22 Apr at Union Hills A. in Cerro Gordo Co. (98-19, \*Carolyn J. Fischer, \*Jan L. Walter, *IBL* 68:95).
- Bohemian Waxwing:** 21 Nov at Spirit Lake in Dickinson Co. (98-33, *IBL* 69:37).
- Summer Tanager:** 11 Jan to 5 Mar at Iowa City in Johnson Co. (98-08, P-0575, P-0576, *IBL* 68:62, 96, Noble 1998).

## 1998 RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

- Neotropic Cormorant:** The identification was not considered definitive (98-11, *IBL* 68:90).
- Lesser White-fronted Goose:** 10, 11 Jun at L. Macbride in Johnson Co. (98-20, P-0600, Found by James Huntington, *IBL* 68: 125). The identification was accepted but the origin of the bird uncertain. The only accepted North American record is from Attu Island in Alaska. The origin of the few mainland birds is in doubt.
- Ferruginous Hawk:** Members expressed uncertainty about the identification of a summer bird (98-22, *IBL* 69:33).
- California Gull:** Some of the plumage features were not consistent with this species in fall garb (98-29, *IBL* 69:35).
- Amazilia Hummingbird:** A bird at a Des Moines feeder in Polk County from 3 Sep to Nov was a Peruvian species that escaped from the Des Moines Botanical Center (98-31, P-0598, P-0609, *IBL* 69:36, Stolz et al. 1999).
- Three-toed Woodpecker:** This bird may have been a sapsucker (98-04).

## CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS TO 1996 REPORT

In the second paragraph, committee members were for 1997 not 1996.

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# FIELD REPORTS—SPRING 1999

THOMAS H. KENT

## WEATHER

March began with warm temperatures, but cooled by the second week when most of the month's below-normal precipitation occurred in the form of snow. Temperatures were above normal for the rest of March reaching the 70s by the end of the month. April was the wettest on record with about twice normal precipitation. Temperatures were above normal in the first half of the month and below in the last half. Except for storms at the middle of the month, May weather was stable with temperatures and rainfall averaging slightly above normal.



## GENERAL TRENDS

Waterfowl arrived before the beginning of the period and appeared to be present in normal numbers, but no scoters were reported. The most outstanding feature of the spring was the number of warblers seen at many locations, including over-migration of Hooded, Prairie, and Worm-eating warblers. The contrast with last spring was striking. Winter finches were represented only by low numbers of Purple Finches and Pine Siskins. Mud flats with shorebirds were present early in the season, but the wet April ended that. High counts for shorebirds were relatively low, except for the large concentration of Pectoral Sandpipers at Coralville Reservoir in early April.

## UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Accidental species reported were Yellow-billed Loon, Clark's Grebe, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Garganey, Barrow's Goldeneye, Greater Prairie-Chicken, Whooping Crane, Eurasian Collared-Dove, and White-winged Dove. Casual species included Black-necked Stilt and Western Tanager. Other rare species included Red-throated Loon, Pacific Loon, White-faced Ibis, Mississippi Kite, Prairie Falcon, King Rail, Laughing Gull, Thayer's Gull, and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.

## SPECIES DATA (\* = documented)

**Red-throated Loon:** All: 1 in basic plumage was at Clear L. in Cerro Gordo Co. on 20, 21 Apr (\*RGo, \*CJF).

**Pacific Loon:** All: 1 in basic plumage was at Hallett's Quarry in Story Co. from 8 to 17 May (HZ-details, \*JJD, \*MDO, \*MPR, \*THK).

**Common Loon:** First: 4 on 20 Mar at Saylorville Res. (BE). Reports throughout May were from 7 locations.

**Yellow-billed Loon:** A report is referred to the Records Committee.

**Horned Grebe:** First: 12 Mar at Cedar L. (CE). Last: 3 on 8 May at Errington M. (DT). High count: 12 on 7 May at West Okoboji (RTh). There were reports from 11 other locations.

- Red-necked Grebe:** All (singles): 16 Apr at Mason City (\*CJF), 18 Apr at Amana L (THK, MCD, JLF), 18 Apr at Clear L (JLW), 18 Apr at Black Hawk L (RTh), and 27 Apr at Tomahawk M. (RTh).
- Eared Grebe:** First: 5 on 10 Apr at Green Valley L in Union Co. (PHA/RIA). Last: 1 on 25 Apr at Blue L (JLF). High count: 12 on 22 May at Forney L (PHA/RIA). There were reports from 8 other locations.
- Western Grebe:** All: 1 on 26 Apr at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP), 1 on 4 May at Union Slough N.W.R. (refuge staff fide MCK), 1 on 8 May at Trumbull L (LAS), 3 on 21 May at Blue L (PHA/RIA).
- Clark's Grebe:** All: 1 was at Blue L in Monona Co. from 21 to 25 May (\*PHA/RIA, \*THK, \*JLF).
- American White Pelican:** First: 75 on 16 Mar at Waubonsie S.P. (BKP/LJP). High count: 700 on 13 Apr at Coralville Res. (DCD). On 31 May, 145 remained at West Hottes L in Dickinson Co. (LAS). This species was common in all areas of the state.
- Double-crested Cormorant:** High count: 350 on 11 Apr at Saylorville Res. (BE).
- American Bittern:** First: 14 Apr at Otter Creek M. (THK). Birds were reported at 13 locations through mid-May.
- Least Bittern:** All (singles): Blue L on 23 May (RTh), Snake Creek M. on 29 May (JJD), and Otter Creek M. on 29 May (CE).
- Great Blue Heron:** Nests were reported as follows: rookery on Racoon R. in Carroll Co. (RTh), 13 on 4 Apr along highway 141 in Polk Co. (BE), 100 occupied on 17 Apr at Rubio in Washington Co. (DKi), 18 on 1 May at West Hottes L (LAS), 3 on 15 May at Barringer Sl. (LAS), 24 active on 21 May at Kettleson Hogsback A. (DCH). In northwestern Cass Co., 2 adults were carrying sticks on 9 May (MAP).
- Great Egret:** First: 26 Mar at Secret L in Fremont Co. (PHA/RIA). High count: 20 on 10 Apr in southwestern Woodbury Co. (THK).
- Snowy Egret:** All (singles): 17 Apr at Port Neal (BFH), 30 Apr, 1 May at Rathbun Res. (MCK, MDO, THK), 7 May at Hallett's Quarry (JJD) and 8 May at nearby Peterson Pits (JJD, HZ), and 19 May at Sedan Bottoms (MPr).
- Little Blue Heron:** All: 1 on 25 Apr at Mystic (TNJ), 1 on 9 May at Coralville Res. (THK) and 2 there on 13-14 May (JLF, CE), 1 on 10 May north of Columbus Junction (JLF), and 1 on 25 May at Blue L (JLF).
- Cattle Egret:** First: 3 on 2 May at Forney L (BKP/LJP). High count: 13 on 29 May at Ledges S.P. (Kevin Healy fide HZ). There were reports from 10 other locations.
- Green Heron:** First: 22 Apr at Diamond L (MPr).
- Black-crowned Night-Heron:** First: 9 Apr near Essex in Page Co. (MT). This species was scarce—only 2 other reports were received.
- Ibis species:** A dark ibis west of Mt. Airy in Ringgold Co. on 2 May could not be identified to species (THK).
- White-faced Ibis:** All: 2 Apr at Waubonsie W.A. in Fremont Co. (\*RSc)[record earliest], 18 Apr at Amana L (THK, CE, JLF, MCD)[3rd earliest], 15 on 20 Apr north of Missouri Valley (BKP/LJP), 2 on 3 May at Cardinal M. (DeC), 5, 6 May at Colo Ponds (HZ, JJD, MDO, MPr, PHA/RIA-photo), and 5 May at Jacob Krumm P. in Jasper Co. (JLF).
- Turkey Vulture:** First: 2 on 1 Mar at Des Moines (PJW). High count: 44 on 11 Apr in Polk Co. (BE). There were 6 reports from 15 to 21 March. Doug Harr noted that this species has become extremely common in northwestern Iowa.
- Black-bellied Whistling-Duck:** All: 1 was said to be present from early April to 5 May (Ted Allen fide Bill Ohde, JLF, THK) north of Columbus Junction in Louisa Co. The bird frequented a backwater swamp with Wood Ducks. A diagnostic videotape by Allen was reviewed by those cited above.
- Greater White-fronted Goose:** Last: 14 May at Dan Green Sl. (THK). This species arrived in February, and flocks of up to 200 were reported in eastern Iowa.
- Snow Goose:** High count: 2,400 at Saylorville Res. on 4 Apr (BE). As usual, stragglers remained into May, including 2 at Colo Ponds on 31 May (HZ).
- Ross's Goose:** Last: 1 May at Dan Green Sl. (LAS). High count: 42 at Saylorville Res. on 4 Apr (BE). This species is now routinely found in all areas of the state with Snow Geese flocks.
- Canada Goose:** The first goslings were noted on 21 Apr at Tomahawk M. (RTh).
- Mute Swan:** All: 1 ad. on 1 Apr and 6, 10, 20 May at Diamond L (MPr) and 1 injured bird at Mason City from 16 Apr to May (RGo).
- Trumpeter Swan:** Many were seen, but the only reports were of birds without neck collars, 1 near Blencoe in Monona Co. on 3 Mar (BFH) and 2 west of Ames on 15 May (THK).
- Tundra Swan:** First: 7 on 11 Mar at Cone M. (JLF). High count: 45 on 26 Mar at Cardinal M. (FL). Others were 2 on a farm pond in Jasper Co. on 14 Mar (RV/CV) and 1 imm. at Union Slough N.W.R. on 7 Apr (MCK).

**American Black Duck:** There were 5 reports of 1 or 2 birds.

**Mallard:** High count: 25,000 on 7 Mar at Saylorville Res. (BE).

**Blue-winged Teal:** First: 17 Mar at Cone M. (MPr).

**Cinnamon Teal:** All: 4 Apr at Grover's L in Woodbury Co. (BFH), 20 Apr at Saylorville Res. (JLF), and 22 May at Bob Pyle M. in Story Co. (Kevin Healy fide HZ).

**Northern Shoveler:** High count: 327 on 11 Apr at Terra L (BE).

**Northern Pintail:** High count: 3,200 at Saylorville Res. on 7 Mar (BE).

**Garganey:** A male was found at Forney L in Fremont Co. on 2 Apr (\*RSc) and seen by many until at least 12 Apr (\*BKP/LJP, PHA/RIA-photo, \*THK-photo, \*MDO, \*JLF, \*CE).

**Green-winged Teal:** High count: 300 on 15 Mar at Cone M. (THK).

**Canvasback:** High count: 51,000 on 13 Mar at Pool 19 in Lee Co. (RLC).

**Greater Scaup:** All: 1 on 7 Mar at Dunbar Sl. (RTh), 1 on 12 Mar at Pleasant Creek L (CE), 7 on 22 Mar at Iowa City (MCD), 2 on 23 Mar at Swan L in Johnson Co. (CE), 2 on 25 Mar at Diamond L (MPr), and 3 on 16 Apr at Iowa City (MCD).

**Oldsquaw:** All: 1 female remained at Iowa City until 24 Mar (JLF), a pair was south of Iowa City on 14, 23 Apr (CE, MCD).

**Barrow's Goldeneye:** A report is referred to the Records Committee.

**Hooded Merganser:** High count: 150 on 12 Mar at L Macbride (CE).

**Common Merganser:** High count: 3,500 on 7 Mar at Saylorville Res. (BE).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** First: 3 on 7 Mar at Saylorville Res. (BE). Last: 20 May at Pleasant Creek L (JLF). High count: 485 on 28 Mar at Saylorville Res. (BE).

**Osprey:** First: 8 Apr at Diamond L (MPr). Last: 27 May at Spirit Lake (ETH).

**Mississippi Kite:** All: 1 on 13 May at Croton U. in Lee Co. (PHA/RIA-details), 1 on 16 May at Lime Creek N.C. in Cerro Gordo Co. (JLW-details), 1 on 21, 29, 30 May in Des Moines (PJW), and 2 on 27 May in West Des Moines (PHA-details).

**Bald Eagle:** Nests: 7 Mar at New Albin in Allamakee Co. (FL-photo of adult on nest), 8 Mar in Carroll Co. (RTh), and 4 May in Louisa Co. (THK).

**Northern Harrier:** A nest with 6 eggs was found at Hayden Prairie in Howard Co. on 29 May (Mark Leoschke fide JJD).

**Cooper's Hawk:** Nest building was noted on 4 Apr near Story City (Bill Clark fide JJD), and 3 nests were found in Warren Co. on 18 Apr (JSi).

**Northern Goshawk:** All: 2 on 16 Mar at Waubonsie S.P. (BKP/LJP). Another report will be referred to the Records Committee.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** All: 1 imm. on 2 Mar at Pine L (MPr), 1 on 22 Mar at Swan L in Carroll Co. (RTh), 1 on 8 May at Yellow River F. (FL), and 1 ad. on 9 May at Dudgeon L (MPr).

**Broad-winged Hawk:** First: 17 Apr at Jefferson County P. (DKi). High count: 20 on 18 May at Grammer Grove W.A. (BPr).

**Swainson's Hawk:** First: 10 Apr at Green Valley L (PHA/RIA) and at MidAmerican Energy (MAE) Ponds in Pottawattamie Co. (PHA/RIA). There were 11 other reports; 2 at Sedan Bottoms in Appanoose Co. on 24 Apr (TNJ) were unusual for southeastern Iowa where this species is least common. The nest south of Allendorf in Osceola Co., which had been active for many years, could not be found (THK).

**Red-tailed Hawk:** A Krider's Hawk was noted at Amana on 28 Mar (DCD).

**Rough-legged Hawk:** Last: 8 May at Pool Sl. in Allamakee Co. (\*FL).

**Golden Eagle:** All (immatures): 7 Mar at Upper Iowa R. in Allamakee Co. (JLF), 11 Mar at Otter Creek M. (MPr), 20 Mar at Diamond L in Dickinson Co. (LAS), and 21 Mar at Waterman Creek in O'Brien Co. (LAS).

**Merlin:** There were 7 reported from 13 Mar to 15 May, including a window kill in Iowa City on 23 Apr (Phil Cummins fide THK).

**Peregrine Falcon:** There were 11 reports from 27 Mar to 15 May, including 3 birds at different sites in Clay Co. on 8 May (LAS). At the Lansing Power Plant in Allamakee Co., 2 were at a nest box on 28 Mar (FL).

**Prairie Falcon:** All: 16 Mar north of Fairfield in Jefferson Co. (\*JLF), which is unusual for southeastern Iowa.

**Gray Partridge:** Reports were from Franklin, Hancock, Johnson, Osceola, Polk, and Story counties. This species is making a good comeback in northwestern Iowa (DCH).

**Ruffed Grouse:** The only report was of 5 in Allamakee Co. on 7 Mar (JLF).

**Sharp-tailed Grouse:** 7 males and a female were seen at a lek in Woodbury Co. on 13 April near where birds were released in 1995-1996 (Iowa DNR fide JJD).

**Greater Prairie-Chicken:** All: 13 were southwest of Kellerton in Ringgold Co. on 18 Apr (\*JLF) and 1 male was there on 11 May (THK). This will be the first record from the introduced population in southcentral Iowa that has been referred to the Records Committee for evaluation of status.

- Northern Bobwhite:** Ray Cummins saw only 3 in Appanoose Co., indicating very low numbers in an area of the state where they are most common.
- Yellow Rail:** All (singles): near Sutherland in O'Brien Co. on 19 Apr (DK, caught), w. of Ames on 10 May (J. Bahrenfus fide JJD), and at Zirbel Sl. on 14 May (Russ Widner fide THK) and 17 May (RGo).
- King Rail:** All: 8 May at Mallard M. in Cerro Gordo Co. (CJF-details) and 14 May at Otter Creek M. (JLF-details).
- Virginia Rail:** First: 24 Apr at Muskrat Sl. (CE) and at Sedan Bottoms (TNJ).
- Sora:** First: 18 Apr at West Valley in Jefferson Co. (DKi). High count: 10 at Harrier M. on 12 May (MPr).
- Common Moorhen:** All: 1 on 5 May at Harrier M. (JLF, THK), 1 on 9 May at Norwalk sewage ponds (JSi), 1 on 10 May at Heron Bend (THK), 1 on 19 May at Zirbel Sl. (RGo), and 2 on 22 May at Forney L. (PHA/RIA).
- Sandhill Crane:** First: 1 Mar at Little Wall L. (Kevin Healy fide JJD). High count: 7 on 21 Apr at Otter Creek M. (MPr). There were reports from 16 counties, indicating that the number migrating through Iowa continues to increase.
- Whooping Crane:** All: 3 pairs were in agricultural fields in southwestern Harrison Co. near De Soto NWR from 9 to 12 Apr (\*JJD, \*JLF, \*THK-photo, \*CE). In northwestern Page Co. near Essex, 2 adults and 1 immature were seen from 9 to 12 Apr (MT, \*CE). These birds appeared after a storm with strong westerly wind on the afternoon of 8 Apr (JJD). These records along with the two from last fall double the number of records in the 20th Century, and three of the older records are from very early in the 1900s.
- Black-bellied Plover:** First: 5 on 18 May in Hardin Co. (MPr). Last: 30 May at Errington M. (BE, DT, PJW). High count: 7 on 29 May at Colo Ponds (HZ).
- American Golden-Plover:** First: 3 Apr with 3 at Harrier M. (JJD) and 40 at Snake Creek M. (JJD). Last: 1 on 29 May in Iowa Co. (CE). High count: 163 on 12 May at Colo Ponds (MPr). The large flocks that usually cross Iowa were not apparent this year.
- Semipalmated Plover:** First: 24 Apr in Franklin Co. (MPr). Last: 31 May at Colo Ponds (HZ). High count: 12 at Nahant M. in Scott Co. (DCD).
- Piping Plover:** All sightings were from power plant ponds with 3 in Woodbury Co. beginning on 18 Apr (BFH) and in Pottawattamie Co. beginning on 13 May (THK) with a maximum of 7 birds on 19 May (JLF).
- Black-necked Stilt:** All: A pair was at Harrier M. in Boone Co. from 4 to 6 May (\*JJD, \*MDO, \*JLF, \*THK, \*MPr).
- American Avocet:** All: 5 on 24 Apr at Barringer Sl. (LAS), 1 on 12 May at Riverton A. (THK), 1 on 16 May at Port Neal (BFH), 1 on 22 May at MAE Ponds (PHA/RIA), and 2 on 31 May in Mills Co. (BKP/LJP)[ties 2nd latest].
- Greater Yellowlegs:** First: 24 Mar at Cone M. (THK, JLF). Last: 23 May at Moeckly Prairie (BE). High count: 24 in Linn Co. on 24 Apr (CE).
- Lesser Yellowlegs:** First: 18 Mar at Amana L. (JLF). High count: 127 on 27 Apr in Carroll Co. (RTh).
- Solitary Sandpiper:** First: 9 Apr at Steamboat Rock (MPr).
- Willet:** First: 2 on 24 Apr at Colo Ponds (MPr). Last: 3 on 28 May at Dunbar Sl. (RTh). High count: 24 on 5 May at Spirit L. (ETh). There were 7 other reports.
- Spotted Sandpiper:** First: 18 Apr at Fairfield (DKi)[ties 3rd earliest].
- Upland Sandpiper:** First: 18 Apr west of Kellerton (JLF).
- Hudsonian Godwit:** First: on 21 Apr 2 near Riverton (THK) and 1 north of Missouri Valley (BKP/LJP). Last: 2 on 29 May at Colo Ponds (HZ). High count: 21 on 15 May at Moeckly Prairie (BE). Many more are usually found, especially in western Iowa.
- Marbled Godwit:** All: 1 on 6 Apr at Forney L. (BKP/LJP-details)[ties 3rd earliest] and 2 on 8 May at Errington M. (PHA/RIA-details).
- Ruddy Turnstone:** First: 2 on 8 May at Errington M. (RIA). Last: 2 on 29 May in Hardin Co. (MPr). High count: 12 at Riverton A. on 25 May (THK). There were 3 other reports.
- Sanderling:** First: 8 May in Clay Co. (LAS). Last: 30 May at Rathbun Res. (TNJ). From 1 to 3 were reported at 4 other locations.
- Semipalmated Sandpiper:** First: 3 on 2 May at Errington M. (BE). High counts: 220 on 29 May at Colo Ponds (HZ) and 200 on 25 May at Riverton A. (THK).
- Western Sandpiper:** All: 2 on 15 May at Elk L. in Clay Co. (LAS-details), 1 on 15 May at Sandhill L. in Woodbury Co. (BFH-details), and 1 on 28 May at Dunbar Sl. (RTh-details).
- Least Sandpiper:** First: 2 on 3 Apr at Waubonsie W.A. (THK).
- White-rumped Sandpiper:** High count: 100 on 25 May at Riverton A. (THK). The first reported were on 23 May, but I know that several were seen before that but not reported.

**Baird's Sandpiper:** First: 3 on 6 Apr at Cone M. (THK, JLF). Last: 1 on 31 May at Welch L. in Dickinson Co. (LAS). High count: 12 in Allamakee Co. on 8 May (FL).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** First: 20 Mar at Cone M. (MCD). Last: 25 May at Blue L. (THK). High count: 3,000 on 9 Apr at Coralville Res. (THK).

**Dunlin:** First: 2 basic on 13 Apr at Cone M. (THK, JLF). Last: 1 on 31 May in Mills Co. (BKP/LJP). High count: 120 on 25 May at Riverton A. (THK).

**Stilt Sandpiper:** First: 2 May at Errington M. (BE, PJW). Last: 8 on 28 May at Dunbar Sl. (RTh).

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** All: 1 on 19 May at MAE Ponds (JLF) and 3 on 22 May near Bartlett in Fremont Co. (PHA/RIA).

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** First: 8 May in Johnson (MCD) and Scott (DCD) counties. Last: 29 May in Hancock Co. (MPr). High count: 27 on 15 May at Errington M. (BE).

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** First: 14 Apr at Harrier M. (JJD). Last: 12 May at Moeckly Prairie (BE). High count: 13 on 7 May at Dunbar Sl. (RTh).

**Common Snipe:** High count: 25 on 10 Apr at Iowa City (MCD).

**American Woodcock:** First: 3 on 14 Mar at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP). Also, 4 on 16 Mar in Poweshiek Co. (CV/RV), 20 Mar at Green Island W.A. (CEW), and 22 Mar at Urbandale (BE).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** First: 4 on 22 Apr at Coralville Res. (JLF). Last: 1 on 15 May at Errington M. (MPr). High count: 8 on 4 May at Harrier M. (MDO, HZ) and on 7 May at Dunbar Sl. (RTh).

**Red-necked Phalarope:** All: 2 on 9 May (BE) and 1 on 25 May (JJD, PHA/RIA) at Errington M. and 1 on 28 May at Doon in Lyon Co. (JV).

**Laughing Gull:** All: At Saylorville Res., 1 ad. on 16 Apr (\*DT)[2nd earliest] and 2 ad. on 22 May (\*BE).

**Franklin's Gull:** First: 6 Mar at Saylorville Res. (BE). The next was on 3 Apr in Mills Co. (MPr).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** First: 27 Mar in Franklin Co. (MPr). Last: 25 May at Anderson L. (PHA/RIA). High count: 114 on 4 Apr at Saylorville Res. (BE).

**Herring Gull:** Last: 22 May at Saylorville Res. (BE).

**Thayer's Gull:** All: 1 1st-year bird on 7 Mar at Coralville Res. (JLF).

**Caspian Tern:** First: 3 on 23 Apr at Coralville Res. (THK). High count: 36 on 19 May at Rathbun Res. (MPr). There were 8 other reports.

**Common Tern:** All: 1 on 16 May at Cone M. (DKi-details), 2 on 19 May at Rathbun Res. (MPr-details), and 2 on 26 May at Trumbull L. (LAS-details).

**Forster's Tern:** First: on 10 Apr, 3 at MAE Ponds in Pottawattamie Co. (PHA/RIA-details) and 1 at the I-29 rest stop in Harrison Co. (JLF, THK). High count: 30 at West Okoboji on 30 Apr (RTh).

**Least Tern:** All: 2 on 26 May at MAE Ponds in Pottawattamie Co. (JLF), 3 on 26 May at Port Neal (BFH), and 1 on 31 May at West Valley in Jefferson Co. (DKi-details).

**Black Tern:** First: 2 on 1 May at Rathbun Res. (MDO). High count: 65 on 30 May at Saylorville Res. (DT).

**Eurasian Collared-Dove:** All: 2 remained throughout the period at Grinnell (MPr).

**White-winged Dove:** All: 1 on 20, 21 May at Waukee in Dallas Co. (\*RUS).

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** First: 3 on 11 May at Croton U. (THK, CE).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** First: 1 on 9 May at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (CE).

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** 4 young were out of the nest on 16 May at Mason City (RGo).

**Long-eared Owl:** All: 1 on 12 Mar at Muskrat Sl. (CE).

**Short-eared Owl:** Last: 3 on 24 Apr at Colo Ponds (MPr). Other reports were from Allamakee, Appanoose, Boone, and Kossuth counties.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** All: 13 Mar at Hickory Hill P. in Johnson Co. (JLF) and 14 Mar to mid-Apr at Hooper G.A. in Warren Co. (JSi).

**Common Nighthawk:** First: 1 May at Centerville (MCK).

**Chuck-will's-widow:** All: 3 on 12 May at Waubonsie S.P. (THK).

**Chimney Swift:** First: 24 Apr at Fairfield (DKi).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** First: 28 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JLF).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** There were 2 nests in Spencer in May (LAS), and copulating birds were seen at Mason City on 28 May (RGo).

**Northern Flicker:** A red-shafted bird was at Forney L. on 4 Apr (RTh).

**Pileated Woodpecker:** A pair nested at Ledges S.P. (MPr, THK). Birds were seen along the Iowa R. in Johnson, Iowa, and Marshall counties and along the Cedar River in Linn Co. Others were at Croton U. and Lacey-Keosauqua S.P.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** First: 2 May at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (THK)[3rd earliest]. Last: 29 May at Sioux Center (JV). Other reports were from 10 to 28 May.

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** First: 2 May at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (MDO). The next was on 8 May at Ledges S.P. (MDO).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** First: 3 on 9 May near Carroll (RTh). Last: 29 May at Sioux Center (JV). There were 7 other reports.

**Acadian Flycatcher:** First: 10 May at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (CE). On 23 May, 1 was at Smith W.A. in Kossuth Co. (MCK), which is an unusual location. Others were at Croton U. (JLF, MCD), Brown's Woods (MDO, BE), Sharon Bluffs S.P. (MPr), and Yellow River F. (RGo).

**Alder Flycatcher:** First: 17 May at J. Harold Ennis Preserve in Linn Co. (CE). Others were widely reported to the end of May.

**Willow Flycatcher:** First: 12 May at Ledges S.P. (MDO).

**Least Flycatcher:** First: 28 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JLF). High count: 80 thought to be mostly Least were at Smith W.A. on 12 May (MCK).

**Eastern Phoebe:** First: 17 Mar at Iowa City (THK).

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** First: 1 May in Lucas and Appanoose counties (MDO, MPr).

**Western Kingbird:** All: 1 near Ridgeway in Winneshiek Co. on 8 May (DK), 2 at L. Manawa on 12 May (THK), 1 at Jemmerston Sl. on 13 May (THK), and 2 at MAE Ponds in Pottawattamie Co. on 19 May (JLF).

**Eastern Kingbird:** First: 24 Apr in Lee Co. (JLF). On 25 Apr, 1 was in Warren Co. (JSi).

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** All: 1 was videotaped on 23 Apr at Lansing in Allamakee Co. (Doug Mullen fide DeC).

**Loggerhead Shrike:** Birds were reported throughout the period from 9 counties from all areas of the state.

**Northern Shrike:** Last: 26 Mar at Burr Oak in Winneshiek Co. (FL). Farthest south was 1 in Madison Co. on 22 Mar (PHA/RIA).

**White-eyed Vireo:** First: 2 May at Muskrat Sl. in Jones Co. (CE). Others that may have been over-migrants were north of Iowa City on 4 May (JLF, THK), at Des Moines in Polk Co. on 16 May (RIC), and at Red Bird Farms in Johnson Co. on 19 May (MCD). Other sightings were in Lee Co. at the Croton U. on 11 May (CE, THK) and the Donnellson U. on 14 May (PHA/RIA).

**Bell's Vireo:** First: 7 May at Jefferson County P. (DKi). Others were from Carroll, Fremont, Johnson, Polk, and Winneshiek counties.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** First: 3 on 1 May at Sharon Bluffs S.P. (MCK).

**Blue-headed Vireo:** First: 1 May at Sharon Bluffs S.P. (MPr) and Kettleson Hogsback A. (RTh).

**Warbling Vireo:** First: 24 Apr at Burlington (JLF). On 25 Apr, 2 were in Lee Co. (RIC).

**Philadelphia Vireo:** First and last: 5 and 26 May at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). There were 14 reports from 9 counties.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** First: 1 May at Sharon Bluffs S.P. (MCK).

**Purple Martin:** First: 3 Apr at Forney L. (MPr).

**Tree Swallow:** First: 20 Mar in Johnson and Louisa counties (MCD, JLF, THK).

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** First: 8 Apr at Otter Creek M. (MPr).

**Bank Swallow:** First: 17 Apr at Rubio in Washington Co. (DKi).

**Cliff Swallow:** First: 14 Apr at Iowa City (THK, first seen by Rick Hollis)[record earliest].

**Barn Swallow:** First: 3 Apr at Forney L. (MPr).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** All: 26 Mar at Sioux Center (JV).

**Brown Creeper:** Last: 2 on 5 May at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr).

**Carolina Wren:** Reports were from Appanoose, Jefferson, Johnson, Lee, and Polk counties, which is only a small sample of this species' current distribution.

**Bewick's Wren:** A pair appeared near Diane Porter's house in Fairfield in Jefferson Co. on 13 Apr and nested in a dryer vent of a neighbor's house with young fledged on 2 Jun (DCP). Thanks to Diane and her neighbors, many observers were able to see these birds. This species also was found at the usual location near the Croton U. in Lee Co. from 25 Apr to 26 May (RIC, THK, MCD).

**House Wren:** First: 11 Apr at Jefferson County P. (DKi).

**Winter Wren:** Last: 1 was singing at Yellow River F. on 28 Apr (THK). This is a location where this species has been known to nest.

**Sedge Wren:** First: 30 Apr at Saylorville Res. (DT). This species was abundant in Dickinson Co. in May (DCH).

**Marsh Wren:** First: 3 on 25 May at Copp Prairie in Kossuth Co. (MCK).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** Last: 19 May at A. A. Call S.P. (MCK).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** First: 14 Apr at Coralville Res. (JLF).

**Veery:** First: 5 May at L. Macbride (CE).

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** First: 1 May at Sharon Bluffs S.P. (MCK).

**Swainson's Thrush:** First: 30 Apr at Dubuque (CLW).

**Hermit Thrush:** First: 13 Mar at Urbandale (BE). Last: 5 May at Algona (MCK-details).

**Wood Thrush:** First: 3 May north of Iowa City (JLF).

**Gray Catbird:** First: 1 May in Appanoose Co. (MDO, MCK) and at Urbandale (BE).



**Northern Mockingbird:** Reports at or above the middle of the state were from Kettleson M. in Story Co. on 18 Apr (HZ) and 19 Apr (JJD), Woodman Hollow in Webster Co. on 30 Apr (Daryl Howell fide JJD), and at Mallard M. on 8 May (CJF) and near Mason City on 14 May (RGo) in Cerro Gordo Co.

**Brown Thrasher:** First: 14 Apr at Shenandoah (MT).

**American Pipit:** First: 29 Mar at Coralville Res. (THK). Last: 2 on 12 May at Harrier M. (MDO). High count: 47 on 8 May in Clay Co. (LAS).

**Blue-winged Warbler:** First: 1 May at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (DKi). Brewster's hybrids were reported in Poweshiek Co. on 13 May (CV/RV) and at Des Moines on 16 May (\*RIC).

**Golden-winged Warbler:** First: on 2 May at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (MDO) and at Muskrat Sl. (CE). Last: on 16 May with 6 at A. A. Call S.P. (MVK) and 3 at Dewey's Pasture (LAS). The seven other reports are only a sample of the numbers seen.

**Tennessee Warbler:** First: 30 Apr at Dubuque (CLW).

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** First: 9 May in Carroll Co. (RTh). Last: 21 May at A. A. Call S.P. (MCK).

**Nashville Warbler:** First: 28 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JLF). Last: 25 May at Sioux Center (JV). High count: 30 on 12 May at Smith W.A. (MCK).

**Northern Parula:** First: 18 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (DCP). Kenne saw more than ever for spring in Kossuth Co.

**Yellow Warbler:** First: 2 May in Lucas (MPr) and Jones (CE) counties.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** First: 1 May at Kettleson Hogsback A. (RTh). High count: 20 on 12 May at Smith W.A. (MCK).

**Magnolia Warbler:** First: 5 May at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 26 May at Sioux Center (JV). High count: 15 on 12 May at Smith W.A. (MCK).

**Cape May Warbler:** First: 28 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JLF)[record earliest]. Last: a female on 26 May at Algona (MCK)[ties 2nd latest]. Also early was 1 on 1 May north of Ames (Wolf Oesterreich fide HZ)[ties 2nd earliest]. There were 24 reports including 1 dead on a sidewalk at Marne in Cass Co. on 12 May (MAP) and 19 for the season by Kenne.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** All: at Mason City on 13 May (RGo) and at Dewey's Pasture in Palo Alto Co. on 16 May (LAS).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** First: 6 Apr at Shenandoah (MT). Last: 26 May at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High counts: 26 on 22 Apr at Ryerson's Woods in Johnson Co. (MCD) and 25 on 8 May at Artesian L. in Carroll Co. (RTh).

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** First: 1 Apr at Red Bird Farms in Johnson Co. (\*MCD)[record earliest]. Last: 16 May at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr).

**Blackburnian Warbler:** First: 5 May at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 28 May at Burr Oak (DeC).

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** First: 6 on 18 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (DCP). Unusual locations included Mt. Hosmer at Lansing in Allamakee Co. on 7 May (\*FL), at Urbandale on 6 May (BE), west Polk Co. on 13 May (PJW), and Palisades Kepler S.P. in Linn Co. on 17 May (CE). Others were found in Appanoose, Boone, Jefferson, Johnson, and Louisa counties. This species continues its expansion in Iowa.

**Pine Warbler:** All: 1 on 23 Apr at Coralville Res. (THK-details)[ties 3rd earliest], 3 on 28 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JLF), and 1 on 9 May west of Carroll (RTh-details).

**Prairie Warbler:** All: 8 May at Ames (\*KHe) and 20 May at L. Ahquabi moving to Hooper W.A. on 21 May (\*AMJ, JSi).

**Palm Warbler:** First: 23 Apr at Coralville Res. (THK). Last: 18 May at Algona (MCK). High count: 12 on 3 May at Cardinal M. (DeC).

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** First: 9 May at Dudgeon L. (MPr). Last: 26 May at A. A. Call S.P. (MCK). High count: 6 on 13 May at Hickory Hill P. (CE). There were 13 reports, which is a good showing for a species that is less common in spring than fall.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** First and last: 3 on 4 May and 2 on 26 May at A. A. Call S.P. (MCK). High count: 40 on 12 May at Smith W.A. (MCK).

**Cerulean Warbler:** First: 28 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JLF). Nest building was observed on 22 May in northwestern Iowa at Wanata S.P. in Clay Co. (LAS). There were observations from 10 counties.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** First: 29 Apr at Fairfield (DKi).

**American Redstart:** First: 3 May in Tama Co. (MPr).

**Prothonotary Warbler:** First: 24 Apr at Sedan Bottoms in Appanoose Co. (TNJ, RLC)[record earliest]. There were reports from 10 counties.

- Worm-eating Warbler:** First: 11 May at Croton U. (CE, THK) and A. A. Call S.P. (MCK). The latter was extremely far out of range as were birds at Woodland Mounds in Warren Co. on 13-14 May (JSi) and at Urbandale on 25 May (BE).
- Ovenbird:** First: 25 Apr at Croton U. (THK).
- Northern Waterthrush:** First: 1 May at Sharon Bluffs S.P. (MCK).
- Louisiana Waterthrush:** First: 2 at Mines of Spain in Dubuque Co. on 14 Apr (CEW). Besides the usual locations at Croton U., Lacey-Keosauqua S.P., and Ledges S.P., other sites included Amana Woods on 15 Apr (CE), Pine L. on 27 Apr (MPR), Jefferson County P. on 30 Apr (DKi), L. Macbride on 8 May (CE, THK), and Maquoketa Caves on 11 May (CEW).
- Kentucky Warbler:** First: 1 May at Sharon Bluffs S.P. (MCK).
- Connecticut Warbler:** First: 14 May at Amana Woods (CE). Last: 26 May at Swan L. in Carroll Co. (RTh). Singles were reported at 5 other locations.
- Mourning Warbler:** First: 5 May at Jefferson County P. (DKi). Last: 30 May at Sioux Center (JV).
- Common Yellowthroat:** First: 1 May in Lucas (MDO), Appanoose (MPR), and Dickinson (RTh) counties.
- Hooded Warbler:** First: 6 May at A. A. Call S.P. (\*MCK). Other birds also at unusual locations include northwestern Cass Co. on 12 May (MAP-details), Smith W.A. on 12 May (MCK), Mason City with up to 3 birds from 13 to 17 May (RGo, JLV), along the Skunk R. in Story Co. on 8 May (John Mayfield fide JJD), and in a yard in West Des Moines on 17 May (PHA/RIA). Other locations were Brown's Woods and Walnut Woods in Polk Co. (PHA/RIA, BE, DT, PAW), Walton L. in Jefferson Co. (DKi), L. Ahquabi in Warren Co. (JSi, MPR, THK, JLF), and Sharon Bluffs S.P. in Appanoose Co. (MPR).
- Wilson's Warbler:** First: 5 May at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPR). Last: 26 May at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPR) and at Algona (MCK).
- Canada Warbler:** First: 11 May at Croton U. (CE). Last: 26 May at Liscomb (MPR).
- Yellow-breasted Chat:** All: 11-12 May at Croton U. (THK, CE, JLF), 12 and 30 May at Chichaqua W.A. in Polk Co. (DT, BE), 14 May in Warren Co. (JSi), and northwestern Lucas Co. on 31 May (Daryl Howell fide JJD).
- Summer Tanager:** First: 2 May at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (MDO, THK). Other southern Iowa locations included Donnellson U. and Croton U. in Lee Co. (THK, PHA/RIA), Geode S.P. in Henry Co. (JLF), Riverton A. in Fremont Co. (THK), and Walnut Woods in Polk Co. (DT, PAW). More unusual were an immature male in Urbandale in Polk Co. on 29 May (BE) and birds at Ames in Story Co. on 8 May (Dave Edwards fide HZ) and Clear L. in Cerro Gordo Co. on 13 May (ETH).
- Scarlet Tanager:** First: 30 Apr at Dubuque (CEW).
- Western Tanager:** All: a male was photographed by Bethel Lemke near Meservey in Cerro Gordo Co. about 10 May (JLV-description of photograph).
- Spotted Towhee:** All: a bird that wintered in northeastern Boone Co. was last seen on 1 May (Gary Highshoe fide JJD), and birds were seen at two different locations in Larchwood in Lyon Co. on 5 and 11 May (DCH).
- Eastern Towhee:** First: 3 Apr at Croton U. (CE).
- American Tree Sparrow:** Last: 16 Apr at Iowa City (MCD).
- Chipping Sparrow:** First: 7 Apr at West Des Moines (PHA/RIA).
- Clay-colored Sparrow:** First: 3 on 3 May at Waubonsie S.P. (THK). There were reports from 4 other locations from 5 to 9 May.
- Field Sparrow:** First: 1 Apr at Coralville Res. (CE).
- Vesper Sparrow:** First: 29 Mar at Coralville Res. (THK).
- Lark Sparrow:** First: 20 Apr at Coralville Res. (CE).
- Savannah Sparrow:** First: 27 Mar in Osceola Co. (JV).
- Grasshopper Sparrow:** First: 1 May in Appanoose Co. (MPR).
- Henslow's Sparrow:** First: 3 on 25 Apr south of Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (THK). All reports were from that area.
- Le Conte's Sparrow:** First: 8 on 7 Apr at Maynard Reece W.A. in Kossuth Co. (MCK).
- Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** All: singles on 21 and 22 May at Warren Fox and Eagle Flats areas in Hancock Co. (Rob Fletcher fide JJD).
- Fox Sparrow:** First: 20 Mar at Heery Woods in Butler Co. (MPR).
- White-throated Sparrow:** Last: 28 May in Kossuth Co. (MCK).
- Harris's Sparrow:** Last: 28 May at Ledges S.P. (RTh). On 7 Mar, 2 were at a feeder in Urbandale (BE).
- White-crowned Sparrow:** Last: 25 May at Cardinal M. (DeC){ties 2nd latest}.
- Dark-eyed Junco:** Last: 27 Apr at Algona (MCK). Oregon types were noted in Winneshiek (DeC), Story (JJD), and Sioux (JV) counties.



**Lapland Longspur:** Last: 50 on 16 Apr in Kossuth Co. (MCK). High counts: 800 on 3 Mar at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK) and 700 on 6 Mar in Clay Co. (LAS).

**Smith's Longspur:** All: 2 on 11 Mar at Dewey's Pasture in Palo Alto Co. (LAS); 2 on 26 Mar and 100 on 7 Apr north of Lone Tree in Johnson Co. (JLF, THK); 60 on 14 Apr, 11 on 9 Apr, and 4 on 22 Apr at Maynard Reece W.A. in Kossuth Co. (MCK, \*RGo, CJF); and 125 on 17 Apr at Welch L. in Dickinson Co. (LAS). Typically the most birds have been found in southeastern Iowa, rather than northwestern Iowa, as was the case this year. Perhaps this is due to the amount of effort expended in looking for them.

**Snow Bunting:** All: 13 Mar at Long Pond in Guthrie Co. (DT).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** First: 2 May in Appanoose and Van Buren counties (MPR, MDO).

**Blue Grosbeak:** Reports were from Fremont (THK) and Sioux (JV) counties.

**Indigo Bunting:** First: 30 Apr at Dubuque (CEW).

**Dickcissel:** First: 4 May at Colo Ponds (MPR).

**Bobolink:** First: 1 May in Appanoose (MDO) and Van Buren (MCK) counties.

**Eastern Meadowlark:** First: 13 Mar at Cone M. by song (MCD). More unusual was 1 singing at Algona on 19 Mar (MCK). A few Eastern Meadowlarks are found in northern and western parts of Iowa such as 2 at Elk L. in Clay Co. on 1 May (LAS) and 1 at Littlefield S.P. in Audubon Co. on 22 May (RTh).

**Western Meadowlark:** First: 13 Mar in Johnson Co. by song (MCD).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** First: 11 Apr at Harrier M. (JJD).

**Rusty Blackbird:** Last: 24 Apr in northwestern Washington Co. (THK). High count: 300 on 7 Apr at Coralville Res. (CE).

**Brewer's Blackbird:** All: 25 on 16 Apr at L. Darling (THK-details) and 3 on 21 Apr near Forney L. (THK-details).

**Great-tailed Grackle:** First: 13 Mar at Lakin Sl. (DT). Reports were from Boone, Clay, Dallas, Dickinson, Fremont, Guthrie, Mills, Story, and Tama counties.

**Orchard Oriole:** First: 2 May at Colyn A. in Lucas Co. (JJD). High count: 35 on 23 May at Blue L. (RTh). Reports were from all areas of the state.

**Baltimore Oriole:** First: 23 Apr at Indianola (JSi)[ties 2nd earliest].

**Purple Finch:** Last: 5 May at Mason City (CJF). There were 4 other reports, all from April. In recent years Purple Finches seem to be less common than they used to be, but quantitative data would be needed to confirm this impression.

**House Finch:** In contrast to Purple Finch, this species is so common that no one reports it anymore.

**Pine Siskin:** All: 9 on 7 Mar at Spirit L. (ETh), 2 on 2 Apr at Dubuque (CEW), plentiful up to 16 Apr at Sioux Center (JV), 1 on 8 May in Iowa Co. (MPR), and 2 probably nesting on 30 May at Algona (MCK). It was certainly a down year for siskins.

**American Goldfinch:** High count: 45 on 2 May in northwestern Cass Co. (MAP).

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow:** Birds persist in the Iowa River flood plain at Cone M. in Louisa Co. (CE, DKi) and south of Iowa City (MCD).

## COMMENT

The data comprised 39 reports and 47 documentations of 26 species. I made 1,612 entries (not including about 160 from late reports) into a computerized database, which is a 29 percent increase from last year. The increased data and the more than 50 percent increase in documentations, with the same number of contributors, indicates that the spring of 1999 produced good birding with many rarities. Four reports were received after the completed report was mailed to the Regional Editor of *North American Birds* (formerly *Field Notes*) on 14 June, and only their most important and unique items were added to the report for *Iowa Bird Life*. Contributors sending items by e-mail (not my preferred format) should be sure to include their full name and address.

Contributors continued to provide descriptions or full documentations of rare and difficult species. I left out reports of an accidental and a casual species due to lack of first hand description for review by the Records Committee. I accepted 3 records for which photographs were observed by contributors. I left out reports that lacked details for thrushes in April (other than Hermit) and Brewer's Blackbird. Details were provided for reports of White-faced Ibis, Prairie Falcon, King Rail, Marbled Godwit,

Western Sandpiper, Laughing Gull, Common Tern, and Pine Warbler, all regular species for which descriptions should be provided. The most troublesome of these for me is Western Sandpiper. Reports usually give a few field marks and rarely provide the full description that I would like to see to substantiate the occurrence of alternate-plumaged adults in Iowa in spring and early fall. I was gratified by the response to my plea for early dates on Eastern Meadowlarks and indication of whether they were identified by song or call.

## CONTRIBUTORS (\* = documentation only)

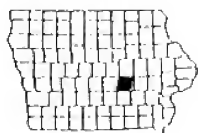
Pam H. Allen (PHA), West Des Moines; Reid I. Allen (RIA), West Des Moines; Dennis Carter (DeC), Decorah; Robert I. Cecil (RIC), Des Moines; Raymond L. Cummins (RLC), Centerville; James J. Dinsmore (JJD), Ames; Michael C. Dooley (MCD), Iowa City; Dan C. Dorrance (DCD), Rock Island, IL; Chris Edwards (CE), North Liberty; Bery Engebretsen (BE), Urbandale; Carolyn J. Fischer (CJF), Mason City; James L. Fuller (JLF), Iowa City; Rita Goranson (RGo), Mason City; Douglas C. Harr (DCH), Larchwood; \*Kevin Healy (KHe), Ames; Bill F. Huser (BFH), South Sioux City, NE; Ann M. Johnson (AMJ), Norwalk; Thomas N. Johnson (TNJ), Mystic; Matthew C. Kenne (MCK), Algona; Thomas H. Kent (THK), Iowa City; Dave Killman (DKi), Fairfield; Darwin Koenig (DK), Paullina; Fred Leshner (FL), La Crosse, WI; \*Josh Obrecht (JO), Minden; Michael D. Overton (MDO), Ames; Babs K. Padelford (BKP), Bellevue, NE; Loren J. Padelford (LJP), Bellevue, NE; Marietta A. Petersen (MAP), Walnut; Diane C. Porter (DCP), Fairfield; Beth Proescholdt (BPr), Liscomb; Mark Proescholdt (MPr), Liscomb; \*Roger U. Schlaefter (RUS), Waukee; Lee A. Schoenewe (LAS), Spencer; \*Rick Schmid (RSc), Omaha, NE; Jim Sinclair (JSi), Indianola; Ed Thelen (ETh), Spirit Lake; Rob Thelen (RTh), Carroll; Dennis Thompson (DT), Johnston; Marie Tiemann (MT), Shenandoah; John Van Dyk (JV), Sioux Center; Connie Van Ersvelde (CV), Grinnell; Robert Van Ersvelde (RV), Grinnell; Phil J. Walsh (PJW), Des Moines; Jan L. Walter (JLW), Mason City; C. L. Winterwood (CLW), Dubuque; and Hank Zaletel (HZ), Nevada.

211 Richards Street, Iowa City, IA 52246

## FIRST STATE RECORD FOR EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE

JIM FULLER

It was a serendipitous combination of factors that resulted in the first sighting of Eurasian Collared-Dove in the state. First, it was Labor Day weekend (1997), and who could forget the Reddish Egret, Long-tailed Jaeger, and White Ibis that had occurred on or near that date in recent years.



I had met Fritz Brock, a city planner from Allentown, Pennsylvania, while on a wild Tern (Whiskered) chase in Delaware two years previously. Fritz is a birder and a golfer, and he and his wife, Ann, are native Iowans, hailing from Grinnell. And so while visiting family and playing a round of golf at the Grinnell Country Club on 29 August, he heard and saw what he considered to be Eurasian Collared-Doves, a species he was familiar with in Florida. The result was an early morning call from Fritz on 30 August, and later that morning we met at Grinnell and immediately saw

three doves sitting on utility wires on the north side of the golf course. For the next hour we observed as many as five birds in that area.

Generally, the doves were larger, lighter, and with shorter and blunter tails than a Mourning Dove. However, they were darker gray than escape Ringed Turtle-Doves I had seen. Overall the birds were a light gray color, with a typical short, dark-gray bill that drooped slightly at the end. There was a black line on the hindneck that continued onto the side of the neck where it ended. Just above the black line there was a parallel white line. The tail was shorter and more squared off than that of a Mourning Dove, and in flight the undertail was white in its terminal half, and dark on the inner portion, except for a light area in the middle. Also in flight, the upperwing showed a three-toned effect, with dark primaries, a lighter silvery area at the wrist, and a brownish gray area on the coverts next to the mantle. The uppertail had a thin white terminal area, and there was also a light, almost silvery area at the bend of the wing on the perched bird. The birds were regularly calling with a series of three loud coos, and on several occasions, an individual bird would make a raspy mewing sound just as it alit on the utility wire. The cooing itself sounded somewhat reminiscent of a Bared Owl call.

These birds differed from Mourning Dove in their larger size, overall lighter color, two-toned undertail and three-toned upperwing, as well as a very different cooing call. Ringed Turtle-Dove is generally lighter, lacks the white above the black neckline, lacks the two-toned undertail and three-toned upperwing, and gives a softer rolling coo.

Evidently, the doves had been at this location at least since the spring of the year, as a neighbor indicated he had heard them since then. During the succeeding months, from one to four birds were seen by many observers, but never as many as the five originally found. One bird was subsequently found dead in October of 1997 (Proescholdt 1999).

Eurasian Collared-Dove was an expected species in the state. It has an interesting history of rapid range expansion, both in the Old World and the Americas (White 1986). A native of India and central Asia, it first entered Europe in 1932. In another 20 years it had advanced to Great Britain, and shortly thereafter to Russia and Iceland. At present it is found north of the Arctic Circle in Scandinavia. On this side of the Atlantic, birds were found in the Bahamas in 1975, from whence they spread to Florida. They have rapidly advanced north and northwest in this country, with almost all states east of the Rocky Mountains exhibiting records. In Iowa, two doves were located in Osceola County during the summer of 1998 (Padelford and Padelford 1999), and as many as ten birds have been recently sighted at Grinnell. If it follows its historical trend or the precedent of the House Finch, Eurasian Collared-Dove should be an abundant bird in the state in the near future.



*Eurasian Collared-Dove at Grinnell,  
18 June 1998. Photo by Reid I. Allen.*

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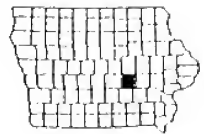
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## EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE SPECIMEN FOR IOWA

MARK PROESCHOLDT AND MIKE STEGMANN

On 15 October 1997, the Central Iowa Ornithologists' of the Marshalltown region travelled to Grinnell on one of their regular field trips. There, they visited 16th Street in north Grinnell to see if the Eurasian Collared-Doves which had first appeared in August 1997 (see note by Fuller, this issue), were still present. Along the road they noticed a dead Eurasian Collared-Dove which was retrieved by Ed Savage and brought back to Marshalltown. There it was turned over to Mike Stegmann of the Marshall County Conservation Board. Mike prepared the bird as a display mount (see photo) which is now on display at the conservation board's headquarters in Marshalltown. The bird, a male with molt evident on the head and tail, seemed to be in good condition and clearly was killed in a collision with a car. There are several photographs of the birds at Grinnell and Osceola County, this is the first specimen of this species for Iowa.



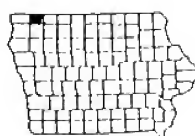
*Eurasian Collared-Dove specimen at Marshalltown*  
Photo by Mark Proescholdt.

Box 65, Liscomb, IA 50148 and 1929 Vine Street, Marshalltown, IA 50158

## EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE IN OSCEOLA COUNTY

LOREN AND BABS PADELFORD

We were on our way to do some birding in northwestern Iowa on 20 August 1998. It was near lunch time so we stopped in Willow Creek Park, on Highway 9 about six miles east of Highway 60, to have our lunch. When we got out of the car we heard a dove calling - a series of "hoos" - "hoo -hoo - hoo" without any of the bubbling notes associated with the call of the Ringed Turtle-Dove. As it continued to call we went to look for it. It flew to the top of a large dead tree where we studied it for several minutes through our binoculars at a distance of about 30 yards. It was a dove, larger than a Mourning Dove with a pale brown back and a light gray breast. It had a narrow black crescent on the nape of the neck. It had a Mourning Dove-like small head and small bill. In flight the tail appeared rather square at the tip. The tip of the tail was white. This combination of characteristics identified it as a Eurasian Collared-Dove, a species first reported in Iowa in 1997 (Fuller, Iowa Bird Life 69: , 1999).



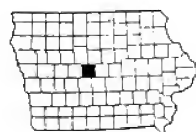
During the time we were in the park, from about 1130-1230 hours, we heard the bird call many times.

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## WHITE-FACED IBIS AT HARRIER MARSH IN BOONE COUNTY

ED THELEN

On 15 August 1997, while driving back to Spirit Lake from Des Moines, I decided to stop and check out Saylorville reservoir for some fall migrant shorebirds. While at Saylorville I met Eugene and Eloise Armstrong who were also out birding. After we introduced ourselves and checked out some nearby shorebirds, it was soon time for me to continue my drive home. Knowing that I was headed north, Eugene suggested I stop at Harrier Marsh, a wetland complex just south of Ogden in Boone County. He said it had some good mudflats and should hold a few shorebirds. He also requested I call him if I happen to see an ibis this fall while birding the sloughs of northwestern Iowa. I told him I had never seen one before but nevertheless would call him if I happened to see one.



As I headed home I thought about what Eugene had said about Harrier Marsh and decided to check it out. Imagine my surprise when I saw an ibis less than 100 yards from the east-west gravel road adjacent to Harrier Marsh. Standing before me was a dark, long-legged bird with a thick, decurved, gray-colored bill that appeared as long as the bird's neck. It was feeding actively next to some Mallards which seemed a third the size of the ibis. The body, back, wings, and rump were mostly iridescent green-black with a tinge of purple sheen. Its neck, throat, nape, and forehead were brown with slight streaks of white. Its legs appeared dark with no hint of color. Its facial skin was dark with no white or light coloring. With a 30-power spotting scope, I could clearly see the red eyes of the ibis on several occasions. Because of the red eyes I identified this ibis as an adult White-faced Ibis in basic plumage. According to Kaufman (Advanced Birding, 1990) "If you can see the red eyes the bird is a White-faced Ibis".

After identifying it positively as an ibis, I immediately tried calling the Armstrongs at their home with my cell phone, but received no answer. (They were still out birding.) I then called Jim Dinsmore who was home and was able to come out and observe the ibis. I then tried the Armstrongs again and this time they answered. When I told Eugene why I was calling he stated simply "We'll be there in 45 minutes." I then stayed with the ibis until the Armstrongs arrived, happy not only to share my find with fellow birders but grateful also for them telling me about Harrier Marsh. The ibis fed continuously during the hour and a half that I observed the bird. As far as I know, the ibis was not seen after this date.

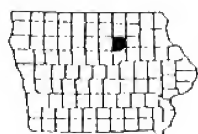
According to Kent and Dinsmore (*Birds in Iowa*, 1996), this is the second sighting of White-faced Ibis in Boone County. There are numerous records of ibis in Iowa in fall but because White-faced and Glossy ibis are virtually identical in basic plumage, most have been identified only as Ibis species. Because I was able to see the bird's red eyes, I was able to identify it as a White-faced Ibis.

*15362 250th Avenue, Spirit Lake, IA 51360*

## WHOOPING CRANES IN BREMER COUNTY

DANA DINNES

On Veteran's Day, 11 November 1998, Larry Brown (an outdoor writer from rural Randall, Iowa) and I were pheasant hunting along a treeless creek line about three miles northeast of Plainfield in Bremer County. It was a crisp, clear morning with a slight breeze. This contrasted markedly from a bit earlier in the week when there were very strong winds--gusts up to 60 mph--from the northwest.



At about 9:00 a.m., while we were headed south along the creek, we heard a strange noise in the air behind us to the north. We turned to see a group of 7 or 8 large birds approaching us. Their call, as Larry described it, sounded like a rusty metal gate swinging in the wind. Since the group of birds were also following the creek line, they were only 40-50 feet directly above us a couple of minutes later. The entire group had similar physical characteristics (as seen from underneath the birds), which were as follows:

- Massive wingspan, a minimum of 6-7 feet
- Long thin necks (over 2 feet long) and long legs that were outstretched in flight
- Small heads
- Bright white plumage with jet black wing tips

We had plenty of time to note these characteristics because their flight was rather slow and labored. They continued to follow the creek, which angled to the south-southeast.

Being an avid outdoorsman and amateur nature photographer, I had a strong inclination that these birds were not common in Iowa. They certainly didn't have the characteristics of egrets, herons, pelicans, or Snow Geese. When I returned home that evening, I looked up the cranes in a bird reference book. The Whooping Crane description and photos were by far the best fit to what we witnessed. I then related this information to Jim Dinsmore at Iowa State University the next day.

It was an incredible experience seeing those magnificent birds fly over us. I just wish I had dismissed the "camera curse" that day. I occasionally bring a camera along on hunting and fishing outings since nearly all of the exciting natural events I've

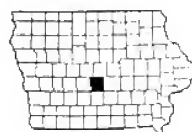
seen happen during those activities. However, when I take the camera along such events don't seem to happen and we usually don't get any shots at our quarry nor catch any fish. I would have gladly given up the daily limit of pheasants I bagged that day for one decent photo of that group of whoopers!

*P.O. Box 187, Kelley, IA 50134*

## WHOOPING CRANE IN POLK COUNTY

JERRY KEYS

The fierce, easterly winds that swept across the Midwest on 10 November 1998 brought a multitude of waterfowl into Iowa. While scouting for geese on 11 November, my hunting partner, Chad Loreth of Polk City, located a few thousand Snow Geese feeding in a chisel-plowed corn field we had permission to hunt southwest of Jester Park in Polk County. We quickly made plans for the following morning and invited Randy Cook of Polk City, to join us.



Arriving before dawn, we set out numerous decoys and anxiously awaited the sun's arrival. Just as we had hoped, the Snow Geese left Saylorville Reservoir as the sun rose and headed to our field.

At 9:30 a.m., with Snow Geese circling overhead, Randy saw a bird to the east heading toward our decoy spread. The bird's long neck and long trailing legs led us to assume it was a Sandhill Crane (many had been seen in the area the previous day). As the bird approached, it began to circle and appeared as if it wanted to land. Chad started to imitate a Sandhill Crane, but when we heard the bird calling, it "purred" and "yelped," which did not sound like a Sandhill. When the bird got within 70 yards, we noticed its body and wings were white except for the ends of the primaries which were black. Also, it was bigger than a Sandhill Crane. The bird eventually flew over us at about 15 yards and briefly landed in our decoys. We were then able to positively identify it as a Whooping Crane. The Whooping Crane lifted off and relanded 300 yards away in the chisel-plowed corn field and fed for about 15 minutes. It was very easy to see the white crane against the plowed field. The crane finally took flight again and headed west.

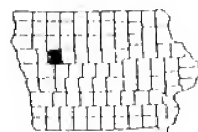
Unfortunately, we did not have a camera with us to take pictures of the Whooping Crane. We did manage to slightly reduce the Snow Goose population, enjoy the great outdoors, and create a once-in-a-lifetime memory.

*1106 Westside, Polk City, IA 50226*

## BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK AT TOMAHAWK MARSH

RUSSELL REISZ

At approximately 8 p.m. on 10 April 1998 I was parked on the country road that bisects Tomahawk Marsh in Sac County. While scanning the eastern portion of the marsh I noticed a large duck flying west, low over the water. I put my binoculars on it and was puzzled by the large white flashes I





was seeing all along the wing. At a distance of about 40 meters I saw that the bill was red. As the duck came nearer, I noticed that the feet and legs were also light reddish in color and that the feet extended past the tail. The bird continued to fly toward me and passed over the road just south of me at a distance of 15 meters. As it passed over me I noticed that the chest was tan or brown colored and the belly was black. I knew then that it was a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck. The bird was not relocated until 3 May, but from then until late May, many others saw the bird.

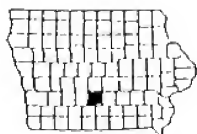
The normal range for this species is from northern South America through Central America and into southeastern Arizona and southern Texas. This year a number of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were reported in the Midwest, with at least three in Wisconsin and one in Kansas. This is the sixth report for Iowa, the third in spring.

2344 Saturn Circle, Las Cruces, NM 88012

## RUFF AT RUNNELLS WILDLIFE AREA

STEPHEN J. DINSMORE

On 23 October 1998, I arrived at the south overlook of the Runnells Wildlife Area at about 7:30 a.m. A wide variety of waterfowl and shorebirds were present, and I was carefully scanning the area and counting birds. At 8:26 a.m., I saw three shorebirds on one of the closer mudflats. The birds were directly north of the overlook and thus were in Marion County. Two of the birds were Dunlin. The third bird was larger and had very distinctive buffy coloration. After noting the large size, buffy underparts, and general shape, I realized I was looking at a Ruff. The bird remained on the near mudflats until approximately 9:00 a.m. The bird was initially preening, but later fed with a small flock of Dunlin and Least Sandpipers. It was slightly larger and plumper than a nearby Lesser Yellowlegs. The shape of the bird reminded me of a long-legged Pectoral Sandpiper while the plumage was reminiscent of a Buff-breasted Sandpiper. The body was very plump, accentuated by the small head and longer neck. I noted the small-headed appearance, similar to that of an Upland Sandpiper. The head and neck were warm buff with a slightly darker crown. The bill was black, of medium length, and very slightly drooped at the tip. The breast and belly were also buffy, fading to a white vent. The upperparts were darker brown and prominently marked with buffy feather edgings. The buffy feather edgings were most obvious on the mantle, scapulars, and secondary coverts. The legs were fairly long (about the same length as the legs of a Lesser Yellowlegs) and bright yellow. At 9:30 a.m., the bird flew to the northwest, eventually landing on a pond closer to Highway 316 and clearly in Warren County. In flight, I noted that the bird had a white rump with a dark central stripe and white underwings. The white color on the rump didn't look U-shaped like it is depicted in some field guides. I also noted a faint white stripe along the base of the secondaries. On the basis of the large size, buffy underparts, and buffy feather edgings I concluded the bird was a juvenile male.



This is the ninth record of a Ruff in Iowa. The records are about evenly split between spring and fall with sightings from March (1), April (1), May (3), August (1), September (2), and October (1). This record is unusual because of the lateness, although October 1998 was unusually mild in Iowa and many other birds lingered later than normal.

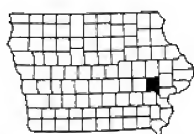
612 1/2 West Magnolia St., Fort Collins, CO 80521



## COMMON NIGHTHAWK DRAWS A CROWD

THOMAS H. KENT

August 30, 1999, brought a cool front overnight and lots of warblers. At 7:45 a.m. I was in the creek's bottomland north of the flood control dam at Hickory Hill Park in Iowa City. A family of Black-capped Chickadees were calling, and as they moved into a large dead tree ahead of me their calls turned to angry scolding. All of a sudden the tree was full of warblers and other passerines recruited by the chickadees. As I scrambled to identify all of the warblers, I noticed a Common Nighthawk sleeping on one of the dead tree's limbs. The warblers were dive bombing it, and many of the other birds were scolding. I twice did a rough count of the birds in the tree and came up with 40. Warblers included Blue-winged, Golden-winged, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Blackburnian, Bay-breasted, Black-and-White, and American Redstart. Other species were Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Blue Jay, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Cardinal, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. The frenzy of birds lasted for about 10 minutes. An hour later, the nighthawk was still sleeping, but no other birds were in sight.



I have seen nighthawks in the park before, but I have never known them to upset other birds. Sharp-shinned Hawks frequent the park, but flocks of passerines usually become quiet and disperse when they are around. Perhaps the chickadees mistook the nighthawk for an owl. Has anyone seen 18 species of birds in one tree at one sitting in Iowa before?

211 Richards Street, Iowa City, IA 52246

## I.O.U. BUSINESS

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Marshalltown, 28 March 1999, 1:12-5:00 p.m.

Mark Proescholdt: Presiding

Present: Jane Clark, Jim Dinsmore, Dan Dorrance, Rita Goranson, Maridel Jackson, Ann Johnson, Curt Nelson, Mark Proescholdt, Jim Scheib, Hank Zaletel

The Board approved allowing Jim Dinsmore to put an insert in *Iowa Bird Life* for selling updates of *Birds in Iowa* and special offers for that book.

IOU Editor: Jim Dinsmore discussed in detail the duties of Editor of *Iowa Bird Life* and the amount of time involved in that job to give the Board a better idea of what that job involves as they search for a new editor.

Newsletter: Hank Zaletel discussed the IOU Newsletter briefly. He and Linda are in their 15th year as Editors of the newsletter. Hank talked about the Middle School curriculum package which is completed and available for \$10. One hundred packages have already been sold.

REAP Grant: The Board approved spending \$1,500 on a REAP Grant proposal to help fund 15 trunks of the Middle School projects to each Area Education Agency in Iowa as well as one trunk for the non-game DNR office at Boone.

IOU Display: Hank mentioned that Linda Zaletel had information and proposals for a new IOU display. The Board voted to have Linda purchase this display at around \$270. This is a smaller display that can be shipped by UPS if needed for groups to use.

Upcoming Meetings: The Board approved accepting the proposal to meet in Ottumwa on 9-12 September 1999.

**IOU Positions:** The job description for the IOU Registrar was approved (see below). The Nominating Committee's progress for getting candidates for the Spring 1999 elections was mentioned.

**IOU Materials:** Tom Kent has prepared a new checklist on computer disk. Mark Proescholdt will call Ann Barker about having it printed in card form. The IOU is out of patches and will not order new ones now. Curt Nelson is having new membership brochures printed.

**Use of Membership Lists:** The Board discussed selling or trading membership lists with outside groups as there have been requests to do so. We decided to continue existing policy of not selling or trading membership lists with outside groups.

**Treasurers Report:** Rita Goranson went over a balance sheet for IOU funds. There have been problems with the phone company on where to send the bill for the Birdline phone. The IOU Budget for 1999 was approved.

**Web site/Technology Committee:** Ann Johnson talked about possibilities with an official IOU Web page. We will budget money for that web page. An IOU Technology Committee was appointed by President Mark Proescholdt including Ann Johnson, chair, and Jim Scheib.

**Records Committee:** Ann Johnson reported on the Records Committee business. Ann will be the new Secretary starting in January 2000. The Records Committee recommended Tom Kent as a new member starting in January 2000, and the Board approved that recommendation. Records are done through 1998.

#### **Announcements**

Jane Clark mentioned an Osprey introduction program at Coralville Reservoir. The Board discussed the Kellerton Bird Conservation Area program in Ringgold County. Ann Johnson will try to arrange a meeting this summer with DNR Director Paul Johnson.

The Board was informed of the deaths of several IOU members or former IOU officers--Doug Rose, John Osness, Pearl Knoop, and Jim Rod.

#### **Registrar Job Description**

The following are the duties of the Registrar:

The Registrar is responsible for: upkeep of membership files, preparing and distributing renewal notices, maintaining and distributing membership directory, distributing mailing lists and labels, and undertaking correspondence as necessary. The Registrar coordinates records with the Treasurer and reports to the Board of Directors.

## **FIFTY YEARS AGO IN IOWA BIRD LIFE**

Perhaps this was an issue where editor Pierce was short of material. The longest article was a report on the summer trips of several Iowans and the birds they saw, a departure from his usual policy of reporting only on Iowa birds. Interestingly, some of the areas that were attractive to birders 50 years ago (Churchill, Bonaventure Island, and Rocky Mountain National Park) still attract Iowa birders. An article by James Hodges discusses the status of 7 species of vireos and 33 of warblers found in the Mississippi River valley. The article has few surprises although for some reason, no mention is made of Northern Waterthrush. No mention is made of nesting by Blue-winged Warbler, Northern Parula, or Yellow-breasted Chat, all species that at least occasionally nest in the area.--ed.

## **CORRECTION**

The photo of the *Amazilia* Hummingbird that was on the cover of the Spring 1999 issue of *Iowa Bird Life* was incorrectly attributed to Thomas Kent. The photograph was actually taken by Don Stolz who, with his wife, Carole, co-hosted the bird. My apologies to Don for this error and my thanks to Tom Kent for pointing it out to me.--ed.





The IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. *Iowa Bird Life* and *I.O.U. News* are quarterly publications of the Union.

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## EDITORIAL STAFF

James J. Dinsmore, Editor, 4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014 (e-mail: oldcoot@iastate.edu)  
Ann Barker, Spring Bird Count Editor, 25368 250th St., Princeton, IA 52768-9720  
Robert Cecil, Winter Field Reports Editor, 1315 41st St., Des Moines, IA 50311  
James J. Dinsmore, Summer Field Reports Editor, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014  
Stephen J. Dinsmore, Christmas Bird Count Editor, 612 1/2 W. Magnolia St., Fort Collins, CO 80521  
Thomas H. Kent, Fall Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246  
Spring Field Reports Editor, Vacant

## MEMBERSHIP/SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

Institutions may subscribe to *Iowa Bird Life* for \$20 per year. Individuals may join the Iowa Ornithologists' Union according to the following membership classes: Regular (\$20); Regular as spouse or minor child of another Regular member without publications (\$4 first additional family member, \$2 each additional family member); Contributing (\$20 plus any additional tax-deductible contribution to the I.O.U.); and Life (\$500 as single payment or \$125 for each of four years). Members will also receive the quarterly *I.O.U. News* and are eligible to vote and hold office in the Union. Send subscriptions, membership payments, or address changes to Curt Nelson or Marty Pauley, 22675 Spruce Ave., Mason City, IA 50401 (e-mail: MPauley@jumpgate.net).

## INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other materials relating to birds and bird finding in Iowa should be sent to the editor. Accepted manuscripts will generally be published promptly, depending on space available, with the following absolute deadlines: 15 November for the Winter issue; 15 February for the Spring issue; 15 May for the Summer issue; and 15 July for the Fall issue. Most manuscripts will be refereed. All material should be typed double-spaced or hand printed in ink on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper. Authors should pattern their style after a current issue of the journal. If you want more detailed guidelines or advice regarding the appropriateness of your topic for *Iowa Bird Life*, contact the editor. Manuscripts may also be submitted on computer disk (Word 4.0 for Macintosh or compatible programs). Please submit one printed copy of the manuscript with the disk.

## OFFICERS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Mark Proescholdt, President (2001), Box 65, Liscomb, IA 50148  
Tom Johnson, Vice-President (2001), 532 120th Avenue, Norwalk, IA 50211  
Jane Clark, Secretary (2000), 9871 Lincoln Avenue, Clive, IA 50325  
Rita Goranson, Treasurer (2000), 115 Lakeview Drive, Mason City, IA 50401  
Other members of the Board of Directors: Dan Dorrance (2000), Maridel Jackson (2001), Curt Nelson (2001), James Scheib (2000), and Phil Walsh (2001).

## STANDING COMMITTEES

*Publications:* Harold White (chair), Ann M. Barker, Dan Dorrance, Jim Durbin, Ron Muilenburg  
*Records:* Thomas H. Kent (secretary), Robert I. Cecil, Chris Edwards, James L. Fuller, Matthew C. Kenne, W. Ross Silcock, and James Sinclair.  
*Membership:* Barb Bettis, Carol Berrier, Maridel Jackson, and Rita Goranson.  
*Library/Historical:* Barb Bettis, Dennis Carter, Sue Spieker, Jan Walters, Hank Zaletel.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS OF IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

19-21 May 2000, Camp Ewalu, Strawberry Point

### FIELD REPORTS

Anyone observing birds in Iowa is encouraged to report their findings on a quarterly basis to the Field Reports editors. Sample reporting and documentation forms suitable for duplication are available from the editor (send self-addressed stamped envelope to Jim Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014). An article describing the reporting process is also available.

Deadlines for receipt of field reports are as follows:

\*Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb)--3 March (Robert Cecil, 1315 41st St., Des Moines, IA 50311)

\*Spring (Mar, Apr, May)--3 June (position currently vacant)

\*Summer (Jun, Jul)--3 August (James J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014)

\*Fall (Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov)--3 December (Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246)

### CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

\*Deadline for receipt of reports: 15 January. For forms and instructions write: Stephen J. Dinsmore, 612 1/2 W. Magnolia, Fort Collins, CO 80521.

### IOWA BIRDLINE 319-338-9881

The birdline is a recorded summary of interesting recent bird sightings in Iowa. At the end of the report you can leave a message and report recent sightings. Be sure to give your name and phone number as well as the location of the bird and date seen. Call in as soon as possible after sighting a rare bird. Jim Fuller checks the reports daily and updates the recording on Monday, so make sure Sunday sightings are reported by Sunday night.

I.O.U. HOMEPAGE: <http://storm.simpson.edu/~birding/>

### I.O.U. NEWS

Send items of interest for the newsletter to the editors (Hank and Linda Zaletel, 1928 6th St., Nevada, IA 50201).

### MATERIALS AVAILABLE

Back issues of *Iowa Bird Life* are available through the editorial office. For order form, send self-addressed envelope to: Iowa Bird Life, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014.

Field Checklist of Iowa Birds--1996 Edition: 25 for \$8.00, postpaid and other I.O.U. materials are available from Maridel Jackson, 410 SW Westview Dr., Ankeny, IA 50021-2727. Also available at annual meetings.

### REPORTING NEBRASKA BIRDS

Sightings of Nebraska birds, including those within the Nebraska portion of DeSoto N.W.R., should be reported to Loren and Babs Padelford, 1405 Little John Road, Bellevue, NE 68005. Formats for reporting and documentation are the same as for Iowa. The Nebraska Bird Line, available 24 hours a day, is 402-292-5325. Iowa birders are encouraged to report their Nebraska sightings to this number.

### ADDRESS CHANGES

Please send address changes/corrections to Marty Pauley, 22675 Spruce Ave., Mason City, IA 50401

ISSN 0021-0455